

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

Thursday, November 12, 2015

The November monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Stephen Elkins, J. Michael Harpe, Rose Mary Hendrix, Doug James, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Misty Seemans, Walter Smith Jr., Roy Sudler Jr., Robert Watson Jr., and Rosemarie Williams. DAG Zoe Plerhoples.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Mashoor Awad (excused), Jamaal Bivens (excused), Chok-Fun Chui (excused), Wallace Dixon (unexcused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Earnest Gulab (excused) and Pameela Kaza (excused)

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vince Petroff and Kelly Fox

Members of the public present: Harmon Carey, Janet Maull-Martin and Edith Corbin.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 7:07 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October meeting were submitted for review and reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion was seconded. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present

Mr. Harmon Carey presented information about the efforts of several groups to urge the Governor to issue an apology for the institution of slavery and its vestiges. He requested the support and assistance of the State Human Relations Commission in securing an apology. Following a discussion Chair Christopher advised the Commission will take the matter under advisement.

IV Chair's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
Discussions on Race Relations in Delaware – Chair Christopher encouraged Commissioners to attend the Delaware Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow's Hope, Opportunity and Race Conference on Saturday, November 14 th from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. at the Chase Center at the Riverfront.	Attend the Delaware Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow's event this Saturday, November 14 th	All available Commissioners	November 14, 2015
Sub Committee Strategic Plans – Chair Christopher again requested that all SHRC Committees review the by-laws regarding the purpose of their respective Committees to determine if changes in the by-laws are needed. Recommended changes are to be forwarded to Commissioner Caesar (cc Chair Christopher).			
Process for Amendments to By Laws – Chair Christopher advised that all request to update the bylaws must be made in writing and be provided at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting.			
Commission Appointments / Vacancies – Tabled for discussion during the Community Response Committee report.			
December Meeting – Chair Christopher asked reported a speaker has not been secured for the December meeting and asked for recommendations. Following a discussion two names were agreed on in order of priority.	Secure a speaker for the December meeting.	Chair Christopher	Undefined
Commission Training – Chair Christopher urged Commissioners to plan to attend the Hearing Training	Commissioner Training	Natalie Fountain,	December 12, 2015

<p>planned for December 12th, 10:00 – 2:00 in the Cannon Building (Dover). This training will be led by Natalie Fountain, Paige Schmittinger and Zoe Plerhoples.</p> <p>Film and Discussion Series- Chair Christopher reported that the launch of the series went well and urged Commissioners to participate as an opportunity to learn with the community. A schedule of upcoming events was distributed.</p>	Attend and participate in film and discussions.	Paige Schmittinger and Zoe Plerhoples. All Commissioners	See schedule of dates
Dover Human Relations Commission – Chair Christopher reported that dialogue between the SHRC and the Dover Commission continues and that opportunities for collaborations continued to be explored.			
Panel Hearings and Commission Meetings Times - Chair Christopher follow-up on a previously discussed issue of changing the times for panel hearings and meetings be moved to an earlier time. Following discussion multiple Commissioners reported that they would either not be able to participate or would have difficulty participating in daytime hearings. Commissioner Burrell made a motion to expand/broaden the time frame to include afternoon and evening hearing options. Following discussion a vote was taken. No opposition was received. Motion carries.			

V Director's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
Director Fullman reported that the Director's report	Director's report to be sent	Director Fullman	Following meeting.

will be sent electronically following the meeting.	electronically.		
Director Fullman reported that the Budget Hearing between the Department of State and the Office of Management and Budget will be 11/23 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the House Chambers at Legislative Hall in Dover.	Attend Budget Hearing	All Commissioners	November 23, 2015
Director Fullman thanked Chair Christopher, Commissioner Chui, Natalie Fountain and Annette Fletcher for participating in the launch of the Film and Discussion series this past Monday.			
Director Fullman reported that the Division will again recognize its partnerships with First State Community Action Agency by purchasing tickets to attend the agency's 50th Anniversary Awards Banquet. The keynote speaker is Delaware native, author (<i>Just Mercy</i>), advocate and Equal Justice Initiative founder Brian Stevenson.			
Director Fullman shared an article entitled <i>Vandals desecrate Smyrna church's property – again</i> from the Delaware State News.			
Director Fullman advised that Director Rashmi Rangan of the DE Community Reinvestment Council may bring suit against Delaware over the use of funds from financial settlements with banks and ratings agencies. Additional details are available in the electronic version of the Director's report to be sent following the meeting.			
Director Fullman advised that additional details regarding Delaware Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow's event this Saturday, November 14 th from			

8:30 am – 4:00 pm. at the Chase Center at the Riverfront are available in the electronic version of the Director’s report to be sent following the meeting.			
Director Fullman reported that Voter Registration training will be December 1 st at 6:00 pm. She will forward an email with additional details. It is necessary for training to be repeated every 2 years to maintain certification.	Send email with details on Voter Registration training. Attend Voter Registration training.	Director Fullman All Commissioners	Undefined December 1, 2015

VI Committee Reports

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
<u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – Commissioner James reported that Natalie Fountain did a Comcast Newsmakers segment this past month. He is looking to schedule another segment to be done next Month.	Schedule a Comcast Newsmakers segment	Commissioner James	Undefined
<u>Legislative Committee</u> – Commissioner Seemans reported that the Committee did not meet this evening.			
<u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported the Committee continues to seek additional groups to provide presentations to for outreach. Commissioner Maihoff reported that they interviewed 2 Commissioner candidates this evening. They plan to interview additional candidates next month.			
<u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEEOC)</u> – Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported that the November meeting was			

cancelled. She reported at the December meeting the Department of Labor and the Department of Transportation are scheduled to be reviewed. Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reminded Commissioners that these meetings are public meetings and all are welcome to attend as visitors. If Commissioners have specific topics they would like addressed at the meeting they can contact a member of the GCEEOC to have the topic discussed.			
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VII Old Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
Chair Christopher previously sent out a communication concerning a cemetery vandalism event. He reported that the State police are investigating this as a hate crime.			
Commissioner Sudler inquired about a report he submitted in 2012 when he was the Chair of the Dover Human Relations Commission and the status of that report. He wanted to know if the Commission has followed up on that report. Chair Christopher reported that the incidents are a police matter and being handled by them. Commissioner Sudler inquired as to the Division/Commission's role in these matters. It was discussed that the Division follows up on formal complaints that fall within their jurisdiction. Following discussion Commissioner Caesar indicated that per the By-laws the CRC could track these matters.			

VIII New Business

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date

Commissioner Murdaugh raised the issue related to the Apology for Slavery. Commissioner Elkins made a motion that the Commission go on record in support of asking the Governor and Legislature to issue an apology letter for slavery. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sudler. Chair Christopher advised as this was not an item on the agenda that the Commission cannot take action on the item this evening. Following discussion it was decided that a special meeting will be scheduled prior to the December meeting.	Schedule special meeting	Director Fullman/Kelly Fox	To be determined.
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IX Good News

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
None			

XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:01 p.m. by Chair Christopher.